

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00642 101447Z

71

ACTION CU-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4507

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0642

FOR CU/WE, CU/IVP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC IC

SUBJECT: EDX: IVP NOMINATION: BJORN BJARNASON

1. MISSION NOMINATES AS FY-74 GRANTEE BJORN BJARNASON, FOREIGN EDITOR OF VISIR, SECOND LARGEST ICELANDIC DAILY, CO-HOST OF ICELANDIC TELEVISION'S FORTNIGHTLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS DISCUSSION PROGRAM, AND YOUNG INDEPENDENCE PARTY FOREIGN AND SECURITY AFFAIRS SPECIALIST.

2. BIOGRAPHIC DATA FOLLOWS. NAME: BJORN BJARNASON. PRESENT POSITIONS: FOREIGN EDITOR, VISIR, SINCE JANUARY 1974; CO-HOST, ICELANDIC TV'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROGRAM; VICE CHAIRMAN, YOUNG INDEPENDENCE PARTY; MEMBER, VARDBERG (ICELANDIC CHAPTER, YWLAIC MREATY ASSN.). FORMER POSITIONS: MANAGER, ALMENNA BOKAFELAGID, MAJOR PUBLISHING HOUSE, THROUGH DECEMBER 1973. LAW GRADUATE, UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND. APPROXIMATELY 31 YEARS OLD. CITIZENSHIP: ICELANDIC. VISA ELIGIBILITY OKAY. TRAVELS ABROAD: MULTIPLE TRIPS IN WESTERN EUROPE, BRIEF U.S. VISITS ON A.T.A. MATTERS.

3. ESCORT SERVICES: NO ESCORT SERVICE OR INTERPRETOR REQUIRED. ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT.

4. REASON FOR NOMINATION. INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE AND CLOSE TO CENTERS OF ICELANDIC POLITICAL POWER (HIS FATHER, BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON, WAS PRIME MINISTER 1966-70 AND PREVIOUSLY), BJARNASON HAS MOVED FROM LAW STUDIES TO PUBLISHING TO JOURNALISM, CONTINUALLY ACTIVE AND INFLUENTIAL IN INDEPENDENCE PARTY POLITICS.

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HE IS ONE OF VERY FEW ICELANDERS TO HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE

STUDY TO INTERNATIONAL AND ICELANDIC SECURITY ISSUES, AND WAS CHOSEN BY NORWAY'S JOHANN JORGEN HOLST TO WRITE ICELANDIC PIECE IN HOLST'S "FIVE ROADS TO NORDIC SECURITY." IF AN ICELANDIC FOREIGN AFFAIRS INSTITUTE EVER IS ESTABLISHED, BJARNASON WILL BE ONE OF TOP CANDIDATES TO DIRECT IT.

5. MISSION OBJECTIVES OF U.S. VISIT: PROVIDE THIS ALREADY PROMINENT YOUNG ICELANDIC POLITICAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEADER WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVES ON CURRENT AND UPCOMING U.S. INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY CONCERNS. ADDITIONALLY MAKE POSSIBLE A GENERAL EXPERIENCING OF U.S. CULTURAL AND DOMESTIC SCENE.

6. BJARNASON BELIEVED ABLE TRAVEL FOR THREE WEEK GRANT DEPARTING IN JUNE.

7. NOMINATION OF ALTERNATE COMING SEPARATELY.
IRVING

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NNN

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